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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ELY.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1937

BY

C. W. HOWE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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T H E

R U R A L D I S T R I C T O F E L Y

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the year

1 9 3 7

by

C. W. H O W E, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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1 9 3 7.

THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ELY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

I beg leave to submit for the approval of the District Council my report for the year 1937. This is in a similar form to those of the previous five years and differs from them only in matters of detail.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	66,082
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for mid 1937) ...	13,100
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937 according to Rate Books) ...	2,965
Rateable Value	30,589
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£133

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	188	97	91	) Birth-rate
	(Illegitimate	8	4	4	) 14.96.
Still Births ...		11	6	5	) Rate per 1000 Total births) 53.14.
Deaths ...		152	86	66	)Crude death-rate 11.603)Corrected Death rate 9.63.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

Deaths.			Rate per 1000 total births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	...	Nil.
Other Causes	2	...	10.24.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1000 live births	...	40.82.
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	42.55.
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil.

Deaths from Measles	1.
" " Whooping cough (all ages) ...	1.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Social Conditions in the area have not differed in any material respect since the issue of my last report, and my observations during the last few years apply equally to-day.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Tuberculosis.- The County Council has 4 reserved beds (3 male and 1 female) in the Ipswich Sanatorium, and additional beds are engaged as, and when required, at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate ; Papworth Colony, Cambridge; Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea, at the Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt, Kelling Sanatorium, Holt, Creaton Sanatorium, Northampton, and Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton.

(2) Maternity.- Difficult maternity cases are admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

(3) Fever.- The Isolation Hospital for the Area is situate at Ely, where provision is made for cases of diphtheria, typhoid fever, and scarlet fever; the hospital is run jointly with Ely Urban and Chatteris Urban District Councils. There are now 36 beds available.

(4) Smallpox.- There are no beds for the isolation of smallpox

5. Other Hospitals.- The other hospitals serving the District are :-

Peterborough Infirmary.
Wisbech Hospital.
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

None of these receive financial support from the Council.

No special institution exists in the area for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children. There is a Diocesan Maternity Home at Cambridge which can be made use of.

There is a motor ambulance in connection with the Joint Isolation Hospital at Ely, which is used for the conveyance of infectious cases ; non-infectious cases and accidents are conveyed to hospital in a motor ambulance which was in the first instance made available for use in the District by the generosity of the late Mr.F.L.Harlock.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis Clinic .-	At Ely each Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. But no new cases are seen except on the recommendation of a private practitioner.
Welfare Centres.-	At Ely each Wednesday 2.30 p.m. to 4 p. At Littleport each Tuesday 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
School Clinic.-	At Ely each Monday, 9 a.m.
Venereal Diseases Clinic.-	Cases requiring treatment are dealt with at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

There is no provision for nursing infectious diseases in the home.

DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATIONS.

The Ely Rural District is served by the following District Nursing Associations, which carry out on behalf of the County Council duties under the Midwives Act, 1936. The names and addresses of the Hon. Secretaries are given below and also the names and addresses and telephone numbers of the nurses employed.

DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATIONS (contd).-

	Hon. Secretaries:	Nurses:
E L Y (for the village of Witchford).	Miss H.W.Willink Palace Green Cottage, E l y.	Nurse Lawford 18 Egremont St. E l y. Tel: Ely 124.
SUTTON.	Mrs.M.Scott, School House, Sutton.	Nurse Wild Pound Lane, Sutton. Tel: Sutton 14.
HADDENHAN & WILBURTON.	Mrs.E.R.Robinson South Place, Haddenham.	Nurse Lowe, Linden Farm, Haddenham. Tel: Haddenham 16.
STRETHAM.	Mrs.E.E.Stevens, Cambridge Road, Stretham.	Nurse H.Cook, 11 Ely Road, Stretham. Tel: Stretham 35.
DOWNHAM.	Mrs.E.M.Young, The Rectory, Downham.	Nurse Cordery, School Lane, Downham. Tel: Pymoor 52.
LITTLEPORT.	Mrs.M.Goy, 30 Main St. Littleport.	Nurse West, 33 Hempfield Place, Littleport. Tel: Littleport 96
PRICKWILLOW (for the Redmere District only).	Miss Willson, Lambsware Hill, Prickwillow.	Nurse Douglas 11 Council Houses, Lark Bank, Prickwillow. Tel: Prickwillow 204

The boundaries of these Associations are so arranged that no part of the area is unprovided for so far as midwifery or maternity services are concerned.

The Cambs and Isle of Ely Division of the British Red Cross Society maintain an Orthopaedic Clinic in Ely; the sessions are held at the Central Hall, Ely on Thursdays. Dr. Roderick the Orthopaedic Surgeon from Addenbrooke's Hosptial, Cambridge attends this Clinic on the 2nd Thursday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on the 4th Thursday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.,of each month.

Public Health Officers of the District Council.

These consist of the Medical Officer of Health, who is a part-time official, and the Sanitary Inspector, who is wholly employed by the Council; the Medical Officer of Health possesses the Diploma of Public Health, and the Sanitary Inspector has the Diploma of the Sanitary Institute.

Laboratory Work .

Samples of sputum and swabs from cases of suspected diphtheria are examined and reported on free of charge to the practitioners by Dr.W.Henwood Harvey, 37, Green Street, Cambridge, and antitoxin is issued gratis in cases of diphtheria.

Legislation in Force.

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, was adopted on 9th October, 1919, and byelaws relating to Tents and Vans were brought into force on 15th January, 1920.

Section 39, 40, 41 and 42 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were adopted to apply to the Parish of Littleport, and came into operation on 5th November, 1928

The Public Health Act, 1925, Part III.

Sanitary provisions, with the exception of Sections 39 and 40 and Part IV, relating to verminous persons, were adopted and came into operation on 9th January, 1929.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

At all times throughout the year there has been an abundant supply of pure water available in all parts of the Rural District and with the further several small main extensions put in hand it might be said that the entire population of the District is now supplied. Occupants of the few dwellings remotely situated can avail themselves of supplies from standpipes conveniently placed.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.(cntd).

Drainage and Sewerage.

Drainage of most of the villages in the area is effected by drains which receive house drainage and also the surface water from adjoining highways. The larger villages have sewers, similarly used in the main streets. In all villages the effluent passes untreated into fen ditches. These ditches are regularly cleansed.

Closet Accommodation.

The pail system is general in all villages, but some pit privies remain. Water carriage is adopted in the Town area of Littleport, and in other villages where sewers are available.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council undertake the removal weekly of household refuse in the special lighting area of Littleport Parish. Refuse is deposited on waste land. The cleansing of cesspools, ashpits, privies and earth closets is done by the occupiers in all Parishes.

Rivers and Watercourses.

These are polluted with water from the fen drains. No action has been necessary during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Houses inspected for defects and remedied by informal action	4
Accumulations of filth removed ...	5
Yards to dwellings cleansed ...	2
Privy nuisances, defects, etc., remedied ..	12
Animals kept in an offensive state removed	1
Samples of water taken to County Analyst ..	11
Water supply - houses provided with proper supply following analyses of existing supplies	18
Samples of milk taken on farms ...	5
Cases of Infectious Disease visited and supplied with disinfectants ...	21
Houses disinfected	5
Schools disinfected	0
Drainage nuisances, drains repaired, new etc.	23
Street gullies trapped	5
Foul ditches cleansed	22
Ponds closed	1
Public wells closed	2
New houses erected	20
Certificates of water supply granted ...	20
Slaughterhouses inspected	21
New slaughterhouses licensed ...	2
Workshops inspected	7
Bakehouses inspected	21
Cheese dairies inspected	3
Farms and dairies inspected (new registration)	0

Notices Served.

Statutory	0
Informal	12
Bakehouse defects remedied ...	4
Slaughterhouse defects remedied ...	3

Shops.

No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area. A Swimming Club at Littleport has control of a small pool for use of children. The water is from the River Ouse. No action has been taken regarding the condition of the water.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.(cntd).

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of infestation have been found or complained of to the Sanitary Officers.

Schools.

Sanitary Accommodation. - At Littleport Town Schools and at the Schools at Haddenham, Wilburton and Stretham Infants, water closets are connected to the sewers. Coveney School has water closets, a septic tank being provided for all drainage. The pail system is, with two exceptions, the method throughout the remaining Schools in the area.

H O U S I N G.

Substantial progress has been made during the year towards the removal of insanitary dwellings and an appreciable number of persons living in unfit houses will, it is anticipated, during 1938, be rehoused under schemes actually in progress and under contracts let at the close of the year. As indicated in my last Report, it is not considered possible to remove all slum type dwellings in any limited period. The progress maintained by the Council in rehousing persons to be displaced as a result of action taken under the Housing Acts is satisfactory. Any greater rate of progress would, it is believed, tax the resources of local industry to that point when economic prices can no longer be obtained. Difficulty has, I understand, already been experienced in securing competitive prices.

Persons displaced under the Littleport (Victoria Street) Clearance Order have been rehoused in dwellings erected by the Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	138
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	239
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	53
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	53
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	47
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	54

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	4

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

A. - Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930, or the corresponding provisions of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	48
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :-	
	(a) By owners	10
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year (cntd). -

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

C. - Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or the corresponding provisions of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	58
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	22

D. - Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930, or the corresponding provision of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

HOUSING STATISTICS.(cntd).

4. - Housing Act, 1935 - Overcrowding :

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	13
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	13
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	94
(b)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year by Council, or by private re-housing or removals	15
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	107

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - Farm, cowsheds and dairy premises (registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926) have been periodically inspected throughout the year. Improvements in buildings and equipment continue to be effected on many farms, especially the larger class. There are now eight dairy farms, the occupiers of which hold Producers' Licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Five samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination, and in most cases were satisfactory. Eleven visits to dairies used for cheese making were made during the year. There are three premises so used, and their sanitary condition is satisfactory.

(b) Meat - No regular inspection of meat is undertaken. Visits to the registered and licenced slaughterhouses were frequently made throughout the year, the premises generally being found in satisfactory condition.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

We have not been quite so fortunate this year in the matter of infectious disease as in 1936, 77 cases in all having been notified. The number of cases of scarlet fever has gone up from 25 in 1936 to 39 in 1937, and in addition, there has been an outbreak of diphtheria amongst the school children in Littleport, amounting to 21 cases.

Thirty-six of the scarlet fever cases, and all the diphtheria cases were treated in hospital.

In order to check the spread of diphtheria amongst the school children a campaign of immunisation was begun and 332 out of a total of 470 children were injected, two doses were given to each child with a month's interval between the doses. Very little trouble was experienced in giving the injections and no reactions were caused either by the first or second doses. The result in checking the spread of the disease was good, no new cases being notified after November 22nd; the first doses were given on either the 12th or 15th November, and the second on either the 14th or 16th December. Below are the figures in detail:

Littleport Boys' School	No. on roll 207	Injected 123
Littleport Girls' School	No. on roll 130	Injected 130
Littleport Infants' School	No. on roll 133	Injected 79

The cases of scarlet fever were of a mild type and caused no anxiety as to their treatment; they occurred at the beginning and end of the year, 13 occurring from January to April, and 26 from September. They were distributed as follows: Littleport 15, Sutton 2, Wilburton 2, Downham 11, Burnt Fen 4, Pymore 2, . Witchford 2 and Redmere 1.

No cases of typhoid fever were notified and for this we must be thankful in view of the experiences of other parts of the country; no suspicion attaches to the source of the water-supply. Samples for analysis from the bore holes have been taken from time to time and this will be continued in the future; a search will be carried out in the near future in the neighbourhood of the bore holes in order to be perfectly certain that no possible sources of contamination of the supply exist in the immediate neighbourhood.

No measures have been taken to provide artificial immunisation against scarlet fever.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.(cntd).

Overleaf are given the number of cases of infectious disease, and of tuberculosis respectively under various age groups.

I beg respectfully to submit this report, together with the Inspector's record of work, for the consideration of the Rural District Council.

At the time when this Report goes to press, I anticipate my resignation as your Medical Officer will have been received and accepted.

This being my last Annual Report, I cannot let this opportunity pass without saying how much I appreciate the help which I have always received from the Council and its Officers and also Officers of the County Council throughout the many years I have been privileged to serve as your Medical Officer.

C. W. H O W E.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases	At all ages	Number of Cases Notified												Removed to Isolation Hospital
		Ages - Years												
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upwards	
Scarlet Fever	39	-	-	1	4	6	22	3	1	1	1	-	-	36
Diphtheria	21	-	-	-	-	1	12	6	1	1	-	-	-	21
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Varicella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	2	-
Pneumonia	9	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	2	2	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	77	-	-	1	5	7	37	9	4	3	3	4	4	57

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ...	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
10 ...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 ...	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 ...	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	4	3	1	2	-	-	-